

CLAIMS

1. A water soluble package comprising a polymeric film, the polymeric film comprising a polymeric backbone derived from a polymer which is water soluble, as defined herein, and one or more derivatising groups attached to the backbone, the derivatising group(s) being derived from a parent material having a ClogP of from 0.5 to 6.
2. A water soluble package comprising a polymeric film, the polymeric film comprising a polymeric backbone derived from a polymer which is water soluble, as defined herein, and one or more derivatising groups attached to the backbone, the derivatising group(s) being derived from a parent material comprising a C4 to C22 hydrocarbyl chain.
3. A water soluble package comprising a polymeric film, the polymeric film comprising a polymeric backbone derived from a polymer which is water soluble, as defined herein, and one or more derivatising groups attached to the backbone wherein the package has a relative rupture ratio of greater than 1, more preferably greater than 3 most preferably greater than 7.
4. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 comprising a crystallinity disruptor and/or a plasticizer physically or chemically bound to the backbone of the polymeric film.
5. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer has a solubility or dispersibility in anionic or

combinations of anionic/nonionic surfactants of more than 15 minutes when the surfactant concentration in water is greater than 0.05 g/L and a solubility or dispersibility of less than 15 minutes when the surfactant
5 concentration in water is less than 0.05 g/L.

6. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric backbone is derived from PVOH.

10 7. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the parent material from which the derivatising group is obtained is selected from the group consisting of acetals, ketals, esters, fluoro-organics, ethers, epoxides, alkanes, alkenes and aromatic compounds.

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8. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the parent material from which the derivatising group is obtained is an aldehyde.

20 9. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer has an average degree of saponification of from 70 to 99%, more preferably from 80 to 99%, most preferably from 88 to 99%.

25 10. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the degree of derivatisation of the polymeric backbone by the derivatising group is from 0.1 to 40% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer, more preferably 2 to 30%, most preferably 5 to 15%, e.g. 8 to 12%.

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11. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein
the polymer is based on PVOH and the number ratio of the
derivative groups to the free hydroxyl pairs on the
backbone is from 1:3 to 1:30, more preferably 1:4 to 1:20,
5 most preferably 1:7 to 1:15, e.g. 1:8 to 1:13.
12. A water soluble package as claimed in claim 1 wherein
the polymeric film is capable of forming, upon contact
with a detergent surfactant in a micellar or liquid
10 crystalline form, a gelled network having a viscosity or
an apparent molecular weight greater than the molecular
weight of the polymeric film alone.
13. A process for conditioning fabrics comprising the steps
15 of adding to a laundry cycle of a washing machine the
water soluble package according to any one of the
preceding claims and contacting the contents of the
package with fabric in the drum of the washing machine.
- 20 14. A process according to claim 13 wherein the tendency of
the water soluble package to break down is reduced in
the presence of a fabric wash detergent active.